

## **Minutes for the 12/11/2009**

### **Iowa Accountability and Transparency Board**

**1 PM CT**

#### **Kennedy Conference Room**

Attendance: Voting: Don Timmins (Chair), State Auditor David Vaudt, Steve Larsen (Treasurer's Designee), Jon Murphy (Governor's Designee) Lorie Bennett, Denise Bulat, Clarence Hoffman (by phone). Non-voting: Teresa Hay McMahon (IDOM), State Senator Bob Dvorsky (by phone), State Representative Andrew Wenthe (by phone). Not in attendance: State Senator Steve Kettering, State Representative Scott Raecker, Angela Connelly, Dr. Subhash Sahai.

Meeting convened at 1:03 PM

**Welcome and Opening by Chairman Don Timmins.** Don Timmins welcomed the group and reviewed the previous meetings of the IATB and laid out the agenda for today's meeting. Chairman Timmins asked for any remarks from others in the room or on the phone. No opening remarks were offered by others in the room or on the phone.

**Accountability Plans by Agencies** – Chairman Timmins asked that representatives from the agencies asked to prepare plans join the IATB at the table to present the plans. Each presenter was given five to 10 minutes. Each accountability plan is available at [www.recovery.iowa.gov](http://www.recovery.iowa.gov).

*Office of Energy Independence (State Energy Program)* – plan presented by OEI Deputy Director Bruce Greiner. Deputy Director Greiner provided a handout to the members to review. Mr. Greiner anticipates that there will be nearly 200 contracts that will go through OEI due to ARRA. Mr. Greiner indicated that OEI was using grants management software to monitor the “triggers” that are in their accountability plan.

Questions from the Board – Board Member Murphy asked what was the most worrisome part of the financial transaction, which area did they need the most oversight? Chairman Timmins asked if there were any additional questions from the members, no additional questions were asked.

*Community Action Agencies, Department of Human Rights (Weatherization)* – CAA Director Bill Brand presented on behalf of the CAAs. Brand gave a thorough overview of the oversight done at the federal, state and local levels and provided information on how that was being enhanced due to the increased funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The enhanced funding is on the order of \$15 M in a normal year to the \$80 M that is expected from ARRA funds. Mr. Brand spoke extensively about the independent auditing that is conducted by each contract and how that information is shared. Chairman Timmins asked if there were any additional questions by members, no additional questions were asked.

*Department of Education (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund)* – plan presented by Iowa Department of Education Chief Financial Officer Jeff Berger. Mr. Berger outlined the three main components of the accountability plan: (1) the Quarterly 1512 report; (2) the certified annual report; (3) local audit process. Mr. Berger underscored the additional review that will be placed on the local audit process. Chairman Timmins asked if there were any additional questions from members, none were asked.

*Iowa Utilities Board* – Plan presented by Frank Bodine with assistance by Judi Cooper. Mr. Bodine reviewed the plan that had been put forward by IUB to hire four new people with ARRA funds – an engineer, accountant, energy efficiency analyst, and renewable energy analyst. Member Steve Larsen asked how these employees would be classified, would there be an expectation that their employment be carried over after the ARRA funds run out? Ms. Judi Cooper indicated that during the interview process, it would be made clear to applicants that these positions were only for the life of the funds. Mr. Bodine added that if it were possible, through attrition or other personnel circumstances, that highly trained employees – like these – would be retained after the expiration of the funds. However, it is not the goal at this time. Chairman Timmins asked if there were any additional questions from the members, none were asked.

**Department of Justice / Department of Energy Procurement Fraud Training Review.** Chairman Timmins called on Cindy Axne from the Department of Management (Performance Results) to review the recent procurement training. Ms. Axne reported that 70 individuals representing 13 state agencies and several non-state government entities participated in the training on October 27th. The training was a success.

**October Report to the Federal Government and Dashboard Review** – Chairman Timmins called on Jon Murphy (member of the IATB as the Governor’s Representative) and Scott Vander Hart, Iowa Department of Management (Performance Results) to provide an update on the recent reporting of ARRA funds to the federal government and the preparations for the next report. Mr. Murphy went over some of the challenges associated with the last report, and Mr. Vander Hart went over some of the modifications being made to the State’s “1512” reporting system.

Mr. Vander Hart went through some of the modifications to the web site, which feature a map of all ARRA projects that have received funding and details on how those funds have been expended. In addition to the map, Mr. Vander Hart reviewed a jobs “timeline” feature which allows viewers to see how many and what kind of jobs had been reported as created or saved with ARRA funds on a given day.

Mr. Timmins asked for questions. Board Member Clarence Hoffman asked if there was additional information that would provide “return on investment” information. Mr. Murphy indicated that was the desired direction for information collection and dissemination, but the ARRA coordinating team did not have the current staff capacity to develop and provide that type of information. Mr. Hoffman indicated it would be valuable information to have, in addition to the transparency information now available on the site.

State Representative Wenthe agreed that return on investment information would be valuable, but indicated that the web site was a very valuable tool at this time, too.

**Final Comments** – Chairman Timmins asked if there were any additional comments from members present or on the phone. No questions were asked.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Timmins at 2:47 PM CT.